

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05061 182154Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5595

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5061

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, PINS, LE, SY

SUBJECT: GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING

REF: BEIRUT 15201; DAMASCUS 4993

1. IN DECEMBER 17 MEETING WITH ASAD, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON ASKED PRESIDENT IF SYRIA COULD OFFER ANY FURTHER
HELP IN SECURING RELEASE OF THESE TWO MEN, NOTING HEALTH PROBLEMS,
ILLNESS IN FAMILY AND ON-COMING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. IF SYRIA
HAD ANY FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO EXERT INFLUENCE, WE WOULD BE
MOST GRATEFUL IF IT DID SO.

2. ASAD PROMISED SYRIA WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT. HE CALLED IN
STAFF MEMBER AND GAVE EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW UP.
PRESIDENT NOTED THAT COMBINATION OF LEBANESE INSTABILITY
AND POOR SYRIAN RELATIONS WITH PFLP HAD LIMITED SARG'S
EFFORTS TO HELP SINCE WE FIRST BROUGHT CASE TO SHIHABI'S
ATTENTION. NONETHELESS, SYRIA WOULD RENEW ITS CONTACTS AND
EXPLOIT EVERY POSSIBLE LEAD. SAID HE PERSONALLY HAPPY TO
OFFER ANY SUCH SERVICE NOTING THAT THOSE WHO KIDNAPPED
THE MEN WERE WORKING AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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